**Document B: Letters between King Richard and Saladin (excerpted, modified)**

*Richard I (or Richard the Lionheart) of England and Saladin, Muslim Sultan of Egypt and Syria, exchanged a series of negotiations during October and November of 1191. Below are excerpts from their correspondence.*

King Richard to Saladin: “Men of ours and of yours have died, the country is in ruins, and events have entirely escaped anyone’s control. Do you not believe that it is enough? As far as we are concerned, there are only three subjects of discord (disagreement): Jerusalem, the True Cross (believed to be parts of the cross upon which Jesus was crucified), and territory. As for Jerusalem, it is our place of worship and we will never agree to renounce it, even if we have to fight to the last man. As territory, all we want is that the land west of the Jordan (river) be ceded (given up) to us. As for the Cross, for you it is merely a piece of wood, whereas for us its value is inestimable (too great to measure). Let the Sultan give it to us, and let us put an end to this exhausting struggle.”

Saladin’s Response to King Richard: “Jerusalem is holy to us as well as to you, and more so, seeing it is the scene of our Prophet’s journey, and the place where our people must assemble at the Last Day. Think not that we shall go back therefrom, or that we can be compliant in this matter. And as for the land, it was ours to begin with, and you invaded it: nor (would you have taken it) but for the feebleness (weakness) of the Muslims who then had it; and so long as this war lasts God will not permit you to set up a stone in it. And as for the Cross, our holding it is a point of vantage (advantage or bargaining chip), nor can we surrender it except for some benefit of Islam.”

***Source:*** *Letters exchanged between King Richard I and Saladin, 1191.*

# **Full Text Available:** <http://books.google.com/books/about/Saladin_and_the_Fall_of_the_Kingdom_of_J.html?id=9nTiBN5pWD0C>

# *Lane-Poole, Stanley. Saladin and the Fall of the Kingdom of Jerusalem. Rev. ed. Selangor: The Other Press, 2007. Print.*

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